

on my grounds. The cherry died, and in a few years the bark and wood rotted. Where this occurred the old stem of the Virginia Creeper commenced to send out rootlets. These rootlets seem to die annually, as they do in *Rhus radicans*. The main stem is a mass of rootlets. I have observed that the plant does this sometimes in the shade on stone walls, and at times when there is not so much shade. Perhaps some plants or some forms may have a greater tendency to root than others.

Another curious thing is that when the Virginia Creeper sends out these aerial rootlets, the wood has excentric circles, as the poison vine always has.

A matter which has interested me is the manner in which the branchlets disarticulate in the fall of the year. When a Virginia Creeper reaches the top of its support, it sends out weak laterals. In the fall these are all thrown off down to the lowermost bud. In other words the lateral branches increase only by the addition of one node a year. Remembering however the above cited tilt with the author of "*How plants Behave*" I must protect myself by remarking that though I say "these are all thrown off," I should not be surprised if some one were to show me a case where it is not so.

These observations have been recorded from time to time as made, in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy. As recent attention has been drawn to the plant, it may be useful to present all in one chapter.—THOMAS MEEHAN.

### Plants of Belle Isle, Michigan.

Detroit, the most beautiful city of the West, has the honor of possessing what will some day be one of the most delightful parks. It is the Belle Isle, situated a few miles up the river and connected by constantly going steamers with the wharves of the city. It is still in an almost primitive condition and certainly must be a treasure to the botanists of Detroit, affording a vegetation at once varied and quite free from the introductions that attend the progress of civilization. This is the locality from which Bigelow obtained his specimens.

A few steps from the landing at the island, *Lythrum alatum*, *Potentilla Anserina*, and *Lathyrus paluster* were growing abundantly. A few rods beyond the bath houses *Habenaria leucophara* everywhere threw out its spikes of fringed flowers from among the grasses. *Rubus occidentalis* appeared, this time with an amber colored fruit, escaping the attention of groups of children busy in collecting the more common black variety. *Rosa setigera* was constantly in demand for the rural bouquets of excursionists, which seemed to have no definite size, but always had room for one more *Habenaria*, *Lyfimachia stricta*, *Lobelia spicata*, or *Hypericum perforatum*. On the drier ground we saw *Geum strictum*, *Lobelia in-*

*flata*, *Calamintha Clinopodium*, besides numerous ferns and other plants, which, however, have already been credited to this part of Michigan in Wheeler and Smith's catalogue. Near the water works, east of the city, *Zizania aquatica* grew among millions of *Wolffia Columbiiana*, interspersed with *Lemna trisulca* and *L. polyrrhiza*, which the catalogue indicates as growing throughout Southern Michigan. *Sonchus oleraceus* was represented by a few stray individuals; also *Polygonum Pennsylvanicum* and *P. incarnatum*. Among the more common weeds may be mentioned *Cichorium Intybus* and *Atriplex patula*, var. *hastata*, both of which are found in unusual abundance throughout the city. Along the railroads *Eurothera biennis*, var. *muricata*, *Diplopappus umbellatus* and *Cenchrus tribuloides*, were well represented, the last plant very troublesome to the collector. A few other plants may be mentioned, which were found north of the city: *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Rudbeckia speciosa*, *Lactuca leucophara*, *Spiranthes Romanzoviana*, *Botrychium ternatum*, var. *obliquum* and var. *dissectum*. The flowers of the *Spiranthes* wind in three ranks about the stem, but they are so arranged as to form 4 vertical rows in each spike. I also observed that young individuals were developed from the axils of the lower leaves, which I suppose furnish a means of propagation to the plant, it being well known that most orchids are slow to seed, requiring the agency of insects in securing fertilization. Proliferous specimens of *Scirpus atrovirens* were frequently seen in the fall.

Fungi were rather scarce. However, the species found were abundantly represented. Among these were *Scleroderma vulgare*, *Gaeaster triplex*, Jungh., *Borista plumbea*, Pers., *Cyathus striatus*, Hoffm., *Boletus castaneus*, Bull., *Agaricus confluens*, Pers., and *Agaricus radicans*, Bull.—AUG. F. FOERSTE, Dayton, Ohio.

### Notulæ Californicæ.

The plant commonly known as German ivy (*Senecio mikanioides*, Otto) acts much as if it could become naturalized in California; though thus far one does not see it growing wild except along streams, and in places where its shoots may have found a lodgment after having been thrown away with the refuse of the gardens. But it is already of quite frequent occurrence in the ravines back of Oakland and Berkeley, where it flowers regularly and profusely shortly after Christmas.

Its dense masses of yellow bloom, upon the background of the dark foliage of live oak and bay over which it climbs, give a warm and cheerful look, at this season when flowers are few.

Owing to the climatic peculiarities of the past winter the common deciduous shrub, *Neillia opulifolia*, Benth. & Hook., will have shed its foliage twice in 1883. Its habit is, in this region, to put